



Vote World Parliament

— world democracy through a global referendum —

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STUDENT PEACE REFERENDUM

by Jim Stark, founder of the NGO Vote World Parliament and author of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*
(soon to be re-released under the new title, *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*)

To read the student referendum program document online, [CLICK HERE](#)

Go to <https://voteworldparliament.org/> to vote “yes” or “no” to this question.

**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative,
transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized
to legislate on global issues?**

YES

NO

BOOKLET OF SCHOOL REFERENDUM ELEMENTS

What follows is a 20-page booklet (41 pages, if you count the appendices) explaining how you and your school can participate in the School Referendum Program on the creation of a democratic world parliament and why the ultimate goal must be a global referendum. Not everyone has time to read so much information, so this document begins with a short summary, on page 2, of things that you could do to kick-start the referendum project in your school, area and country.

Student Referendums on World Democracy

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SUMMARY OF STUDENT PEACE REFERENDUM: HOW TO

- Carefully read the ballot wording on the cover page and decide if you think it captures what must be done to resolve the world's most serious problems
- Accept that Vote World Parliament has defined a credible strategy (a world referendum on establishing a democratic world parliament) for getting from the world of chaos and danger we have today to a democratically governed and permanently peaceful world of tomorrow, and tell other students that you believe this can be done, perhaps in a decade, led by the youth of all nations
- Gather together a few other students to work with you on an organizing committee
- Seek approval and support from the students' council and the administration of your school for a school-wide referendum using our ballot (www.voteworldparliament.org)
- Set a date for the school referendum at least one month into the future, and in that time period, try to get teachers to discuss issues related to a democratic world parliament
- Find a teacher who is willing to be the "faculty advisor" for your organizing group
- Make sure to emphasize that voters must be 16 years old or older to vote (all younger students at your school may volunteer to help collect votes on Referendum Day and help the campaign in other ways)
- Figure out how you plan to collect the votes of students—on paper ballots and/or on a computer set on the VWP site, where there is an active ballot
- Make sure it is understood that voters can only vote once
- Post flyers advertising the school referendum project—including date(s), place(s) and time(s) to cast votes, the required age (16+) for voting eligibility, etc.
- Try to get a short, sharp and supportive comment from the principal or a key teacher and include it in the flyer mentioned above (more than one great comment is good too)
- Contact the students' councils or individual students of other schools, and commit to the goal of getting two other schools to follow your school's example and conduct the VWP referendum there [NOTE: *This aspect of the project is absolutely crucial.*]
- Get new participating schools to commit to finding two *additional* schools each that will make this further commitment and keep it
- Announce the referendum results at your school to the student body (through posters or other means) and to the local media (TV, radio and print) and use this occasion to call on the youth of the world to follow your school's example
- Assure every voter that while the organizers of the referendum want it to pass, we are not suggesting that you vote "yes" or "no"—only that you vote your conscience
- Assuming the referendum vote passes at your school, write your Member of Parliament and ask him/her if your national government will run the ballot nationally, in tandem with the next national election, as a national component of a global referendum
- Assuming the referendum vote passes at your school, ask your principal to consider the draft UN resolution presented in Appendix #1 (attached, pages 21-22) and to then write to your prime minister asking him or her to propose this resolution in the UN General Assembly, even if it is not expected to pass in the UN in the first several tries
- Offer to help other schools that are just learning about the referendum to get organized as you are doing at your school
- If you have a facebook page or other Internet presence, put a [portable ballot](#) on your page to collect more votes

THE BOOK ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE

The book about this initiative is called *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*. It was published in 2008 by The Key Publishing House Inc. It is currently being re-written and updated, and it will be re-released in early 2013 under a new title, *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*. It will be offered as a free download at www.voteworldparliament.org in the place where Rescue Plan is now offered as a free download.

Excerpt from the first formal review [Feb. 13, 2008] of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*:

This is a brave and visionary book ... [It] is full of hope and inspiration and will leave the reader with a clear objective and direction. *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* should be required reading in every school and by every politician. Jerry Tetalman, California president of Citizens for Global Solutions and co-author of *One World Democracy*

THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Vote World Parliament (VWP) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization registered in Québec, Canada. Its role is to launch a global referendum on the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament by whatever legal means are possible and, assuming the referendum passes strongly, to thereafter convert the resulting “global mandate” into the reality of a democratic world parliament. VWP is not affiliated with any political party, religion or ideology.

There are two purposes behind this 20-page document. The first is to give you the basic information about the plans we have for a global referendum on creating a democratic world parliament. The second is to encourage you and other students at your high school, college or university to organize a school-based mini-referendum, open to all students 16 years old or older, and to their friends and families as well (again, if they are 16 or older). So this document is sort of a manifesto and a practical “how to” manual.

THE SCHOOL MINI-REFERENDUM

The first school-based referendum took place at City Montessori School in Lucknow, India in November, 2007. This unique high school was founded by and is led by one of the great modern voices for a new and democratic world order, Jagdish Gandhi. Slightly more than 7,000 ballots were collected from students (and their families and friends) in that first effort, and these votes were 90% in favour! Now, five years later, there is a new crop of students at CMS who are at least 16 years old, and VWP proposes to replicate the 2007 experience while avoiding the mistake that we made last time. (To see that “fix,” go to MULTIPLIER EFFECT section below, on page 11, and Appendix #2, on page 23.)

How can you do a global referendum at your school? You can't, but you can do a mini-referendum, and other schools, colleges and universities may follow your lead. As well, this “mini-referendum” idea can spread to factories, businesses, religions, sports teams, municipalities, provinces, and indeed entire countries. The spokespersons or organizers for the mini-referendum can be a few students or an entire students' council, or it could

eventually be famous film actors or singers or MMA fighters or dancers—in other words, opinion leaders ... or anyone else with the intelligence and the courage to simply claim a leadership role and get to work.

A NEW WORD: “OMNICIDE”

Humans will always disagree strongly on all sorts of things, and we will either fight out our differences, or talk them out. Given the existence of nuclear weapons and many other WMD, if we keep fighting wars and revolutions to settle our arguments, it is a statistical certainty that, sooner or later, we will commit “omnicide” (collective suicide, the death of everyone). But if we can finally turn our backs on war and permanently commit to talking out *all* of our disputes, it is entirely possible that our amazing species will live and thrive for thousands of generations into the future. However, to do all that talking and arrive at just and satisfying end results, there must be agreed rules, and above all else, there must be stable institutions, the main one being a democratic world parliament, that will make and apply world laws *with the consent of the governed* (in this instance, that means the entire human race), and actively work on any problem that could erupt in war for as long as it takes for all the parties in conflict to dance away from the negotiating table with big smiles on their faces. Most people would consider this scenario an unrealistic dream, but the time has come for us to revise our conception of what is realistic and what is not. The alternative to this seemingly idealistic scenario really is “omnicide,” and what could be more embarrassing and tragic than that as the legacy of the most brilliant species on the planet?

The sea ice in the Arctic is toast (meaning it will all be gone soon), but (action to combat climate change) may change whether or not we are toast too. Andrew Weaver, climate modeler, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Canada, in an article entitled “Arctic ice cover shrinks to new low after summer thaw” (When you say in North America that something “is toast,” it means that it is destined to die or disappear in the near future.)

No one likes or pays any attention to alarmists who run around yelling “the sky is falling, the sky is falling.” But in most countries, it is a crime to *not* sound the alarm if a genuine threat to life is observed. Here is a short passage from my book concerning one particular “responsible alarmist.”

On March 21, 2007, former American vice-president Al Gore [now also a Nobel Laureate for his work on climate change and his role in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*] **testified to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.** “Nature is on the run,” he said. “Future generations will suffer ... and they will ask, ‘What in God’s name were they doing? Didn’t they see the evidence? Didn’t they hear the warnings?’”

As a result of gross negligence and bone-headed thinking, previous generations have left today’s youth with such a disastrous mess that perhaps no amount of work can ever fix what is wrong with the world (especially global warming, or climate change). Perhaps we are already “toast,” as Andrew Weaver phrased it (above). It is today’s youth and their children who will suffer most. If students can’t see this and don’t decide to do all that it

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takes to change our species' collective trajectory, tomorrow's youth—your children and their children—may well face literally hopeless odds.

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS BE THE ONES TO GET THINGS MOVING?

If your generation takes on the job of stopping and repairing the damage that was caused by previous generations and preventing further disasters, it is surely through your high schools and universities that you can best get yourselves organized. And it is through the creation of a democratic world parliament that our planet-wide problems can be solved, including and especially our penchant for using or threatening violence whenever we get angry at or afraid of another nation or religion or ideology.

The world of tomorrow belongs to the youth of today, and there is just no escaping the fact that your generation has to clean up the chaos that my generation left behind. This campaign has to start somewhere, so why not your school or university? On behalf of my generation, I apologize for the crushing mess you are inheriting, but “sorry” doesn't get us very far down the road. Let's look at where things stand now in terms of world order, and move on to the VWP plan from there.

WE HAVE WORLD GOVERNMENT NOW, BUT NOT WORLD DEMOCRACY

We have world government right now, even though most people have no idea that this is the reality of 2012! The fragmented world government that now exists consists of:

- 1) the UN General Assembly (UNGA),
- 2) the UN Security Council (UNSC),
- 3) agencies such as the UN World Food Programme (the WFP, which accounts for more than 90% of the UN's spending),
- 4) the World Health Organization (WHO),
- 5) the Bretton Woods financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF),
- 6) the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO),
- 7) the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT),
- 8) the G8 and the G20,
- 9) privatized efforts like the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland and the Bilderberg Club, an annual, invitation-only deal.

And we must add to this mix the U.S. government, which frequently behaves as if it were the government of the world *and* the policeman of the world.

So ... yes, we do have a sort of jumbled-up world government now, but “we, the people” never voted for the establishment of all these institutions, nor did we vote for the leaders or the policies of these institutions. We have world government now, but we do *not* have *accountable* world government, meaning we do not have *world democracy*, and that fact is profoundly disturbing because democracy is surely the only ideology that can navigate humanity safely through the next 10,000 or ten million years. The missing ingredient is,

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of course, a democratic world parliament—a “directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament,” to put a finer point on it. But considering that the UN is not “directly-elected, representative, transparent or democratic,” and facing the fact that our 195 or so UN Member States (read “national governments”) will not create such a body themselves (except perhaps after a World War III, assuming there are survivors!), how do ordinary folks go about creating this new global institution?

THE OVERALL PLAN

A world parliament, no matter how carefully designed and how good the intentions of its creators, will not work (or will not work for very long) unless it is based upon the *consent of the governed*, meaning in this case the entire human race, or at least the vast majority of us. So, the start point *must* be a global referendum. The obvious strategy then would be to piggyback the global referendum ballot onto national election ballots, one nation at a time, but there is a gigantic problem with that idea. Many national governments will not want to assist us unless they can see advantage in it, and some will vigorously oppose our efforts in order to preserve what they think of as “their” sovereignty.

The word “their” above (the second-to-last word in the previous paragraph) requires a bit of explanation. It is in quotation marks because while national governments claim to be the possessors of sovereignty, they are not. Sovereignty quite simply does not belong to governments. It belongs to the people. We *delegate the exercise of some aspects of our sovereignty* to city councils, provincial governments and national governments because it is in our interest to do that, and we can similarly delegate the exercise of other aspects of *our* sovereignty to a democratic world parliament if we choose. Here are three excerpts from my book that further underscore this analysis:

... sovereign power resides with the people ... Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people ... This is a universal principle of mankind ... laws of political morality are universal; and ... obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations. Preface to the *Constitution of Japan*

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government [and] this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which ... shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

The question is not one of “surrendering” national sovereignty. The problem is not negative and does not involve giving something up [that] we already have. The problem is positive—creating something we lack ... but ... imperatively need—the extension of law and order into another field of human association which heretofore has remained unregulated and in anarchy. Emery Reves in his seminal book, *The Anatomy of Peace*

So, given predictably negative reactions to our plan by many national governments, the critical question becomes: Can we, the people, launch and eventually complete a global referendum with no help from governments? The answer 20 years ago would have been “no,” but today, with the Internet available to all, the answer is “yes.” It is now possible to get from a tiny, shaky beginning to a fully-collected global mandate ... *if* that is what enough people want to do.

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Fortunately, it won't be necessary to do the entire referendum using unpaid volunteers. Once it becomes clear that ordinary people have the political will and the means to finish the global referendum on their own, some national government will find itself moved to start the *official* consultation with a national referendum held in conjunction with its next national election (at which time all the *Internet* votes from citizens of that country will be nullified), and our volunteers can concentrate on collecting ballots over the Internet from people living in countries where the national government still refuses to participate or to cooperate. (We hope to have our resolution proposed in the UN within the next several years, even conceding that it is unlikely to pass the first few times it is presented.)

I suggest you study our draft UN resolution (Appendix #1, page 21-22 of this document) for more on the rationale and the tactics of the VWP global referendum plan—especially the last five preparatory clauses, just prior to the seven numbered “operative clauses” that define what the UN must commit to doing. Careful reading will reveal clearly that “we, the people” have ample bases in both international law and reason for the demands that are presented in the operative clauses of our resolution.

THE SECURE WEBSITE AND THE ACTIVE BALLOT

How can a few ordinary people use the Internet to start a chain of events that could end up constituting an irresistible global mandate for fundamental change in the political realities of the planet? It is with pleasure that I tell you that this key aspect of the VWP plan is already in place. We created a secure web site and an active referendum ballot, so now anyone (16 or older) can go to <https://voteworldparliament.org/> and cast their vote. But there are only 22,000 or so votes there now! How do we get this number to grow?

By using of the Internet (plus one's friends and family members), any individual can set a personal goal for himself or herself of bringing in say 100 new votes before this date next year, and each person can encourage those who voted in the global referendum at his or her behest to define *their own* personal goal, and so on. In fact, if person #1 got two more people to vote this week, and those two people vote and also enlist two new voters each the following week, the entire global mandate could be collected in less than one year! It probably won't happen this way, but my point here is that it theoretically *could* happen this way. (See Appendix #2 on page 23 of this document or Chapter 13 of my book for a graphic presentation that verifies the math.) And finally, if you have a Facebook page or other Internet presence, you can put up a “portable ballot” on your page and collect even more votes. [Click here](#) to find out how it's done.

There are videos on the Internet that “go viral” because they are funny, impressive, cute, or adorable. Saving the world is not funny, nor is it cute or adorable, but it sure would be a mighty impressive achievement! If you can see how this campaign can be done, by us ordinary people, others will inevitably see it too, and the global referendum will go viral on the Internet at some point in the future. We expect there will be a universal sense of empowerment when billions of people realize that we really do have the power to make such fundamental changes in how the world operates, and the emerging global mandate

will provide the political and legal basis for completing the job, for actually establishing a democratic world parliament.

THE BALLOT WORDING

The wording of the ballot—called “the question” or “the proposition”—is as follows:

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

The question on the ballot of the global referendum must be clear. It took us several years and a few serious disagreements to finally formulate the proposition presented above, and we are not inclined to go through that again. The wording is directly to the point, and it is sufficient. Quite a number of books have been written on this idea of world government, including a world parliament, and so far there has been no disagreement among authors and activists on the issue of our ballot proposition.

CREDIBILITY

It should be mentioned that we could put out a mammoth effort in the next decade only to have the referendum proposition fail to get sufficient support. We now have over 22,000 ballots cast, of which 95.3% are “YES” votes. Although this percentage will go down in time (our opponents don’t yet take the global referendum as a serious force or player), we are encouraged to believe that the global mandate we seek exists out there, in the hearts and minds of thoughtful, caring, sensible people. Our job is to collect the ballots that will constitute the global mandate, and that can likely be done in a decade, perhaps sooner. (If the global referendum passes strongly, the next step would be to hold global elections to choose representatives to sit in the world parliament.)

At a certain point, you need to use your own mind and common sense to decide if you think this plan has a chance of working. But for your consideration, in the meantime, I would mention with pride that there are 123 participants in the VWP [Authors’ Campaign](#), and there are [35+ published books](#) listed on our site in support of the general goal we espouse, a democratic world parliament.

Further on this issue of common sense, here is a story that inspired me.

Americans Mona Lee and Dick Burkhart traveled by tandem bicycle for years, mostly in India, asking people if they wanted a democratic world government in which they would be politically represented as citizens of the *world* in the way they are now represented as citizens of a nation, a province and a city. These two champions of peace almost always got positive reactions from the ordinary people they spoke to, most of whom had never heard anything about the possibility of creating a democratic world government or world parliament. At Vote World Parliament, we are trying to mobilize that “common sense” reaction, harness it, empower it, focus it and build it into a formal global mandate. (Mona

later wrote a book about their experiences, entitled *Humbler than Dust; A Retired Couple Visits the Real India by Tandem Bicycle.*)

ELIMINATING CORRUPTION THROUGH TOTAL TRANSPARENCY

The easiest way to destroy credibility is to introduce corruption into the system. I should mention (and you probably already know) that there is no political body anywhere, at the municipal, provincial or national level, that is not vulnerable to corruption, and there are very few people who simply cannot be corrupted under any circumstance. There are some really fanatical groups who oppose any kind of world government or world parliament on the grounds that world governance must lead inevitably to world tyranny. That is the one serious argument against what we are trying to do here. Although no one can foretell the future sufficiently to use the word “inevitably,” this argument against us must be faced up to and challenged and effectively removed forever as a reason not to create democracy on a global scale.

The *last* thing we need at the global level is a parliament that is vulnerable to corruption, and that is why we must insist on a full-spectrum regime of transparency. Transparency is the only known antidote or cure for corruption, so if the democratic world parliament is to have a zero tolerance policy with regard to corruption, it must be unlike any national or other parliament in that *every word spoken or written by any elected DWP member or by a senior DWP bureaucrat must be recorded, transcribed, translated (if requested) and then posted on the Internet for anyone to see.* This is called *total transparency.* I recently saw a placard in an American “Occupy” demonstration calling for total transparency at the national level in the USA. That’s utterly unlikely to happen, but if we are to build a new institution, the democratic world parliament, we’ll have an opportunity to deal with this problem *before it arises.* Don’t be surprised if it works, and if it works at the global level, don’t be surprised if people start demanding similar total transparency regimes in their national, provincial and municipal governments.

Any democratic world parliament that humanity may create simply *has to work perfectly honestly all the time,* and public confidence in the system has to last “forever,” so these unprecedented safeguards are absolutely necessary. We have the required technology, so if we also have the willpower, that is how things will be done. Anyone who cannot speak the truth at all times (meaning when he or she is at work or is otherwise discussing DWP business) should not to work for, or be elected to, the democratic world parliament. (For more on this concept, see Chapter 5 of *Rescue Plan.*)

A STRONG GLOBAL MANDATE

The objective of VWP’s program is to collect a mandate from the entire human race, or from most of us, for the establishment of a democratic world parliament. Do people the world over genuinely want a democratic world parliament? And if they do, what size of mandate is needed to assure that we get what we want. If 50% of all adults (16 or older) in the world cast votes and 67% or more of them vote “yes,” such a mandate would likely be accepted by most people as *legally binding under international law* (see Chapter 10

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and 11 of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*, where these numbers and the legal arguments are explained in greater detail). Bearing in mind that a third of all people are children under the age of 16 and therefore not yet eligible to vote, those minimum percentages (a 67% “yes” result from 50% of all adults) translate into about two billion “yes” votes, and such a robust and spectacular global mandate would undoubtedly be politically compelling *no matter what its legal status*. Who, after all, would even *try* to tell the entire human race that we won’t be allowed to build what we voted for?

The purpose of this short document is to encourage students at your school or university to organize a school-wide referendum, open to all students 16 or older (and non-students 16 or older as well, I should add), *and to spread the referendum elsewhere in an effort to get those two billion “yes” votes into our possession as soon as possible*.

MULTIPLIER EFFECT

As mentioned earlier, we had a mini-referendum at City Montessori School (in Lucknow, India) in 2007, and thousands of students voted. But at VWP headquarters in Canada, we failed to build a “multiplier” mechanism into the plan, and as a result, people voted, and then ... nothing. There was no “next step.” We are not going to make that mistake again.

This time, in order to have a referendum, the organizing committee (or students’ council or whatever constitutes the group of people who take responsibility for this project) must do one more critical thing beyond the conduct of the vote and the inputting of the voting results into the master ballot at our site. The leaders of the referendum project must try to get at least two other schools to consider this initiative and take up the cause themselves, perhaps with some help from the organizing group at your school. These other two new schools, in their turn, must not only run the referendum and input the results, but commit to finding at least two *more* schools to follow their example—two more *each*, that is. And of course all those who decide to assist in this historic effort are free to recruit more than two other schools, and may be able to recruit businesses or religious groups or unions and other adult groups to join in to extend the reach of this project even further. This is the area where we (meaning the VWP team here in Canada) failed back in 2007. There was no next step. Now there is, and we trust that those involved in organizing the vote at one school will get this additional duty done quickly, so that the whole train of events can be set in motion as quickly as possible.

NOT A HARD JOB, JUST A BIG JOB

Let’s be clear about this. Conducting a school-wide referendum on the issue of creating a democratic world parliament and spreading the referendum elsewhere is not a hard job; it is merely a big job. If enough students volunteer to help out, the average volunteer might only have to work for a few hours (although some students will want to work many times harder than others) to complete the school referendum. And besides, “big” is not a good reason to shrink from this task, so the request to you is to take a deep breath, take a very serious decision and get started.

INFORMED VOTING

We ask that students (and teachers and others, if possible) complete a referendum at your school, college or university as a way of kick-starting the *global* referendum, and also as a way of raising consciousness about the dangers we face as a species, and the political solution that is possible. This should involve some pre-vote activities—debates, articles or letters in the school paper, a formal “yes” campaign, perhaps a formal “no” campaign as well—whatever it takes to encourage *informed* voting.

THREE WAYS OF PROCEEDING

Try method #1 below. If you fail, try method #2, and if that doesn’t work, use method #3, below. You will succeed one way or another. Your referendum alone may not trigger the global referendum, but it will be a part of the overall activity that should have that effect. One way or another, you will surely remember this local achievement for the rest of your life, and you should always be proud of it.

The appendices at the end of this document can be printed and used for a presentation to the principal (or administration or faculty) or to the student council or student union. The logistics of how to conduct the referendum within your educational institution are for you to decide. You may want to do the voting all on one day, and set up voting stations in high-traffic areas, and ink-stamp the hands of voters so that no one can vote twice (that would take two volunteers per voting station, I’d think). Or you may want to print the ballot in the student paper, and set up drop-off boxes for completed ballots. Or ... you may have to go with Method #3, below, and do the mini-referendum off school property.

METHOD #1—GET THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND/OR TEACHING STAFF TO SUPPORT THE STUDENT REFERENDUM PROGRAM

Some principals, teachers, administrators and school board representatives are terrified of getting involved with anything “political.” However, neither the organization Vote World Parliament nor the global referendum itself is affiliated with any political party, religion or ideology. Our aim is to establish a new order of law, world law, just as our ancestors had to struggle to establish municipal law, provincial law and national law, and that is not the kind of activity that can be called “political” in the partisan sense. World law is what it will take for humanity to survive, so partisan politics, religion, etc. must be kept out of the picture (unless they wish to help). Make the attempt to get the support and approval from the administration and the staff of your institution, but be prepared to be rejected. If you are successful, that is terrific. But if not, make it clear that you intend to proceed with or without their support, and then change your plan to one of the next two strategies.

METHOD #2—GET THE STUDENTS’ COUNCIL OR STUDENTS’ UNION TO SANCTION AND/OR ORGANIZE THE SCHOOL REFERENDUM

The student councils of high schools have *limited* freedom to make decisions concerning extracurricular programs in the school, and the idea of running a mini-referendum on the

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creation of a democratic world parliament is not only a non-partisan activity, it is one of the only promising steps that young people can take to try to reverse the deadly directions that the world is moving in. The support of the student council and student newspaper (if one exists) is a good basis for a referendum, and can bring this debate to the forefront. In a college or a university, student unions have much greater freedom to act, and should be asked to support and/or sponsor a school-wide referendum. It should be brought to their attention that the referendum can be done *without* their support, and members of a student union (student council in a high school) must consider the optics of a situation (meaning how it will look to others) if they decline to help out and the referendum turns out to be a grand success and starts to spread to other schools throughout India and beyond. Student councils or student unions would feel foolish if they turned this proposal down and then tens of thousands of high schools, colleges and universities all around the world ended up doing referendums on democratic world parliament and getting very positive results.

METHOD #3—START TO COLLECT BALLOTS ON YOUR OWN, AND TRY TO RECRUIT OTHER INDIVIDUAL VOTE-COLLECTORS

It is suggested that those who want this to happen should not waste a lot of time trying to convince an administration, faculty or student council or union that doesn't understand or is inclined to play it safe or votes against the school-based referendum. The tools needed to do the job are available, and there is no law in any (democratic) country that says you can't stand on public property in front of a high school or university (or anywhere else, for that matter) and urge people to vote on a sane and sensible global political option. As people vote, many will ask questions and some will volunteer to become a vote collector. If the first two strategies aren't working, one person with the courage to get things started can trigger a referendum at his or her high school or college or university. You certainly don't have to be an expert; you only need to be able to recognize common sense, and if you stand on a sidewalk and ask people to vote, you will quickly learn that the creation of a world parliament will make common sense to almost everyone.

In an approach like this, it is imperative to transmit the essential message in as few words as possible, and to do it in a way that is loud enough to hear, a little more assertive than a normal conversation, but not so emphatic as to sound shrill or bossy. In my opinion (and I had about ten attempts at writing this), the best words to declare the initiative to students (or others) as they walk by are these:

“Please vote in the global referendum on creating a democratic world parliament. This is not some radical or naïve idea. It is sensible, democratic, urgently required for our survival, and it is up to us to get it done.”

It is likely a good idea to have a clipboard with a blank ballot fastened there, and to have a lot of cutout cards so that anyone can take one and vote on their computers when they get home, if they prefer (or in an Internet café, if they do not own a computer). Cards can be photocopied from Appendices #3a and 3b, on pages 24 and 25 of this document (10 cards per 8.5" x 11" page). To print out a supply of paper ballots, print from Appendix

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#4a, on page 26 of this document (if you see only a blank page where the four ballots should be, set your computer to “View/Print Layout” and the ballots will appear.)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

All adults—16 years old or older—are eligible to vote (although there is no reason why a 14-year old can't *collect* votes). This referendum can be based in a school, but it does not have to confine itself to the student body. We invite every caring student to canvas his or her friends and family *outside* the school. There is no reason why a school with only 300 students can't deliver 500 votes, or 1,000, or even more.

BEING PREPARED AS A VOTE COLLECTOR

For social reasons and security reasons, it is a good idea to collect votes in pairs, meaning two vote collectors working together (even three). If a question comes up, one person can refer to a document (like the pamphlet or article, Appendices #5 and #6), while the other vote collector continues to collect votes from passersby. Make sure you have a reasonable supply of cards, ballots and other materials. If you are approached by a reporter, you are free to voice your views, but you should also have a phone number and name to give out so they can speak with the head of the local organizing group if they want to.

NEVER ARGUE ABOUT THE ISSUES ... EVER

It is fine to *discuss* issues related to a world parliament with those voters who ask you questions, but never argue about anything ... ever! They are entitled to their views, as you are entitled to yours, and while discussion can lead to a meeting of minds or better understanding, arguing simply does not help our cause. If somebody insists on raising a voice, shouting, name-calling or anything else of that ilk, tell him or her to vote “no” if they don't like the concept described on the ballot question.

RECRUITING FURTHER VOTE COLLECTORS

If a voter expresses an interest in helping to collect votes, ballots are set up four per page in Appendix #4. You can give the new volunteer some materials that you may have with you, and give him or her a card (printed from Appendix #3a and 3b, pages 24 and 25) and write on the back of that card where filled-in ballots are to be dropped off, and by what date (the data on ballots has to be input at the VWP site, www.voteworldparliament.org, and the local organizers have to decide when that work will begin). People who show an interest but do not want to be pressured into voting immediately can be given a card and asked to vote online on a computer later, when they've made a decision as to where they stand on the proposal. Vote collectors can accept filled-in ballots from fellow students (be very sure to put them in a particular pocket or some other safe place, and later turned over to the people inputting data—as soon as possible, actually). If you have a voter who takes a few ballots for his or her family or friends, be sure he or she understands that they are to be filled in as soon as possible, and returned as soon as possible.

THE DRAFT UN RESOLUTION

It is a good idea to have a copy of the draft UN resolution with you in case people ask where all this effort is leading. Student referendums are very useful, but to do the global referendum, the ideal way is to have the UN pass a resolution and have the referendum happen nation-by-nation, and that *is* our plan ... except it is not going to happen unless there is action on the ground, especially by young people. It is a good idea to keep several copies of the UN resolution with you in case a student or other person wants to study it. It is Appendix #1, page 21. If you don't have a spare copy, you can always give the inquirer a card (print from Appendices #3a and #3b) and tell him or her that the entire Student Referendum Program is downloadable as [item 5 from the Volunteer link of the Vote World Parliament site](#).

Once the groundswell of popular support is clear, we will ask that a formal resolution be presented to the United Nations General Assembly calling on all nations to hold formal national referendums as part of a global referendum. Appendix #1 is the UN resolution that we want proposed. Whether or not your student council or student union supports the school-based referendum, they should support the global referendum as outlined in the UN resolution, and they should be asked to send a letter to the head of your national government and to the local/national media informing them of that support. The student body can even ask your national government to *sponsor* the resolution in the UN General Assembly, or to co-sponsor it if another nation agrees to be the primary or lead sponsor, or *at least* to agree in advance to vote *for* the resolution if it is introduced into the UN General Assembly by other nations.

VOTING PROCEDURE

The Vote Collector Form (Appendix #4, below) has four ballots on an 8.5" by 11" page. They are to be cut apart with scissors or a paper cutter. These are short-form ballots, and have only the *five required fields* that are found on the Vote World Parliament website; 1) "YES" or "NO" to the ballot question, 2) the voter's first name, 3) family name, 4) age or birth date, and 5) country. The *online* ballot additionally asks for an email address, street address, state, ZIP or postal code, and has a "captcha" code aspect to prevent repeated nuisance voting. (These additional fields are not required fields except for the "captcha," which only comes into play when the ballot data is being input.) What follows pertains to the short-form paper ballots that would normally be used in a school referendum.

There are only two things that need to be established prior to accepting a vote from any person. The person cannot have voted before. The person must be 16 years old or older. It is that simple, and having gotten past those hurdles, the voter should be assured that only his/her first name and country of residence will appear on the VWP website ([click here to see all votes](#)). Voters should also be told that they do not have to say what their email address is, and even if they do say, no one will ever see our database or have access to it except for our purposes in conducting the online referendum. One way or another, each voter should be encouraged to help us, and one way of doing that is to download the file

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called [fast track](#) on their computer at home (if they have one), to see if they could single-handedly start a new and expanding string of votes (more on this later).

PAMPHLET AND ARTICLE (Appendices #5, pages 28-9, and #6, page 30)

Whatever approach is used to collect ballots (through the principal or administration, the student council or union, or on the street), it is a good idea to hand out copies of the pamphlet or article—but these cost money to produce. Collecting or accepting money from voters is not permitted. (Any expressed wish to contribute money to the cause can be directed to the organizing committee of the school referendum.) If you assemble a committee of ten people to organize the referendum, they can each put in a little money. If each person contributes a little—just what he or she can afford—you can print out and hand out the two-sided cards (printed from Appendices #3a and 3b), which should cost less than one cent (Canadian funds) each. Once your group has grown, you can assemble a bit more money and decide if you want to print and hand out our pamphlets or articles. Another way to educate your potential voters is to have the pamphlet (Appendix #5) and/or article (Appendix #6) published in the student newspaper, if there is one, or you can tape copies of one or both documents to the hall walls (ideally with permission).

DEALING WITH FILLED-IN BALLOTS

All filled-in paper ballots collected at a school, including those from family members or friends of students—must find their way to a central depot by a certain date (be sure to set a realistic deadline—give the referendum at least a month to get as far as it’s going to get). If you can collate the collected votes alphabetically by last name, it is easier to spot duplicate votes. If one person has voted twice, that can be an honest mistake, so you can input the data once onto the VWP site. If one person has voted three or more times, *that’s not an accident*, and those votes should not be input. It is best to disqualify any deliberate troublemakers from voting at all, no matter which side of the issue they are on.

INPUTTING DATA FROM PAPER BALLOTS ONTO THE VWP WEBSITE

Everyone is free, of course, to input their own vote onto the website (assuming they have a computer with Internet access, or can use someone else’s). If you are collecting votes on paper ballots, however, there are several things to remember.

1) The information from a paper ballot must be input at www.voteworldparliament.org, the VWP website, as soon as possible. Votes will be “authorized” by VWP headquarters within one day, and every voter will be assigned a “voter ID” (voter identity) number in case any voter is inclined to check his or her vote at any time in the future. (Only the first name of a voter and his or her country will be visible to the public on our [Public Record link](#).

2) Make sure that you input information accurately. Even if you’re getting *mostly* “yes” votes, do not assume you got *only* “yes” votes. Check carefully each time. People are free to vote “yes” *or* “no,” and we all need to be totally honest in this process. If you click on

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“submit vote” and then realize you have accidentally given incorrect information, send us a message on our [Contact us](#) link to tell us about the error so that we can fix the situation at our end. Then re-input that ballot with the correct data.

3) The easiest way to input ballots is as a team, with one person reading out the data and the other person typing it in. After reading out the “yes” or “no” that the voter has picked, the reader would then read and spell out the first name of the voter, and so on through the data. When words are spoken aloud, it is a lot easier to catch mistakes and duplicates. It is also a good idea to take a break every now and then, as this work can be tiring. Generally, we find it is possible to input between one and three ballots per minute, but it is best not to sacrifice accuracy for speed. Each time a ballot is input, you must enter the numerical “captcha” code near the bottom of the digital ballot on our site, then click the “SUBMIT” button.

MEDIA INVOLVEMENT

Don't be too shy to inform the local TV stations, radio stations and newspapers that they should do a story about your efforts to establish a democratic world parliament. It is also a good idea to make sure that you are ready for questions, and it is a good procedure to practice on each other, even thinking up “loaded” and unfair questions. It is also a good idea to never *ever* lose your cool. If an interviewer is too hostile, you can always end the interview and tell him or her that you would be happy to speak to them later, once they have understood that this is a serious initiative. If you have a really sarcastic or unfair interviewer, a wonderful quote to use is the one I used as the very first words in the very first chapter of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*: “All truth passes through three states: First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. And third, it is accepted as self-evident.” [Andrew Schopenhauer](#), German philosopher (1788 - 1860)

However, most interviewers are fair and polite, and while you can't be expected to know everything there is to know about international relations, the best advice is to stick to the message. If you are asked what a world parliament would do about the Israeli-Palestinian problem, for instance, you say that that never-ending feud is an example of what happens when sovereign states are left to work things out all on their own. If war is criminalized under world law, the democratic world parliament would have to order a cessation of all hostilities, convene a negotiating forum and spend whatever amount of time and money it takes to negotiate a fair settlement. And once the world parliament has worked out the terms of the permanent settlement, national leaders (political and military) will be held personally responsible for offences against the settlement.

It isn't your job to predict what that settlement would be, or how it would be enforced. If two cities in your country were going to war against one another because there was no national parliament to prevent it from happening, it is certain that you would be working to establish a national parliament to legislate some kind of peaceful solution, not trying to predict how such an institution would do its job. Remember—*stay on message*. Humans will always have disputes. As mentioned earlier, we are going to fight them out or talk them out. Individuals, provinces and municipalities don't do battle over disagreements

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because there is national, provincial and municipal law that can be used to talk things out. There is no world law for nations to use as an alternative to violence, and that is what we are trying to do; establish a new order of law. Former U.S. President Truman said it best:

[If] Kansas and Colorado [two neighboring states in the USA] **have a quarrel over the water in the Arkansas River, they don't call out the National Guard in each state and go to war over it. They bring suit in the Supreme Court of the United States and abide by the decision. There isn't a reason in the world why we can't do that internationally.** U.S. President **Harry S. Truman**, June 28, 1945, on receiving an honorary degree from the University of Kansas City

[There are dozens of other powerful and authoritative quotes in Appendix #7, below (on pages 32-39), and hundreds more in *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*.]

CAUTION

Do not get bullied or tricked into a discussion of a “one-world” government, by which is generally meant a tyrannical global government that erases all national borders, enslaves the human race and implants microchips in our heads on behalf of some evil elite. Such silly conspiracy theories **abound** on the Internet, and we refer to their proponents as “the tinfoil hat gang.” Be clear in explaining that the role of the *democratic* world parliament is to make law for the world on global (or “supranational”) issues, while respecting all the legitimate rights and powers of national (and provincial and local) governments, and for negotiating solutions in instances of shared or overlapping jurisdictions. The little-known principle of “**subsidiarity**” is a very important basis for a DWP, and that principle means that all political issues should be resolved by the lowest or the smallest appropriate level of government, meaning that when national governments are handling a particular issue well enough, there is no need for the DWP to intervene. However, if one or more national governments can't or simply won't cope with a serious supranational problem, the DWP must assume at least partial jurisdiction and negotiate and/or legislate a solution—ideally in concert with the nation-states (and non-state parties) involved.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Get your school library to stock a hard copy of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* (the digital book is available as a free download from www.voteworldparliament.org). You might write a review for the student newspaper. Reviews that have been received to date are posted [here](#).

Organize a DWP club or association at your school. There are more interesting things to discuss than how to get votes, but *getting votes is the thing that can get us the democratic world parliament that we urgently need*. So talk about anything that seems relevant, but never forget, *getting ballots is what will make this dream come true*.

[There are more activities/actions for individuals listed in Appendix #8 below, on pages 40-41.]

CHAIN REACTIONS

Your group should set as one objective the bringing of two other schools (or colleges or universities) into the referendum process. In other words, if you know someone energetic at another school, get this document into their hands, then help them to get a referendum going there, at the other school. Members of your group might have parents or relatives that belong to organizations, and it may be possible to persuade them to take up the cause and do a referendum within a service organization or a church, a synagogue, a mosque or a temple. You can try to get employees of a company to vote in their own referendum. In fact, the possibilities are endless.

In *Rescue Plan*, there is the “chain vote” or “fast track” idea, and you can print it from Appendix #2 on page 23 of this document. This is a credible technique whereby a single person could, *at least theoretically*, cause the entire global referendum on DWP to be completed in one year! You are encouraged to take a look at this “fast track” plan and give it a try. It won’t work perfectly, but it will certainly work *to an extent*, and if enough people try it, it could be a huge player in our overall quest for the global mandate for a democratic world parliament.

SEEK ENDORSEMENTS

Send a delegation to visit your mayor and/or city councilor, and ask council to endorse the concept of a democratic world parliament *and* the idea of a global referendum as the democratic way to establish and authorize this new global level of law. You can also ask your city or town council to consider a municipal referendum on DWP, using the VWP ballot, conducted in tandem with the next municipal election. The cost will be perhaps two cents per voter (in Canadian funds—whatever your country’s currency, this is a *very* small amount of money). This was done in a campaign we organized back in the 1980s, and more than 200 Canadian cities and towns utilized our common ballot on nuclear disarmament and conducted municipal referendums (in tandem with local elections) at their own expense. In other words, this estimate of two cents per voter has some solid history behind it. (See Chapter 16 of *Cold War Blues*, my first published book, available from Amazon.com at <http://tinyurl.com/3drh48t> or <http://tinyurl.com/3jhutkf>.)

See who knows a famous sports star, singer, or movie actor, and get them to personally endorse the global referendum on a democratic world parliament. We plan to keep a list of such people on the VWP site, but you must tell us when you get such an endorsement. You may know an author who may be willing to endorse the global referendum initiative. They are listed in the [authors campaign](#), and you’ll see that we already have 100+ cosmopolitan authors supporting us. If you find an outgoing character in entertainment or sports, ask him or her to create a YouTube video announcing that they have voted “yes” in the global referendum for the democratic world parliament, saying *why* they voted “yes,” and encouraging others (their fans) to follow their example.

Another idea is to ask your city or town council to endorse the UN resolution (Appendix #1). Endorsing that idea may get them off the hook for running a local referendum, and if

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that's how it looks to you, that's okay, but make sure they include a commitment to write your national prime minister or president and the foreign affairs minister in an effort to get that government to make the proposal in the UN General Assembly, or to co-sponsor the UN resolution if another nation takes the lead position as the sponsor, or minimally to agree to vote for it if it is raised in the General Assembly. And send a copy of such letters to the local and national media.

ALLIES AND FRIENDS OF VOTE WORLD PARLIAMENT

A small non-profit organization can't take this plan from conception to completion, so eventually there will have to be a coalition of organizations, working together. The ideal way of doing it would be for the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling on every nation to hold a national segment of a global referendum on the creation of a DWP in tandem with its next national election, and we have written to the ambassador of every member state of the United Nations about our draft resolution (there are no takers yet, but in time, *with traction on the ground, especially among youth*, we expect to get this ideal strategy going). In the meantime, endorsements by organizations or coalitions are helpful. We encourage all organizations (religions, companies, service organizations, unions and, political parties, etc.) to support the referendum effort and take some kind of action.

Note: In December, 2009, the World Alliance to Transform the UN (WATUN), which is a coalition of 27 NGOs (so far), passed a resolution as follows:

WATUN agrees to:

1. endorse the global referendum, for which the ballot question reads: "Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?"
2. encourage each member organization, and all other civil society organizations, to collect ballots however possible and as fast as possible, to be tabulated (at www.voteworldparliament.org) by Vote World Parliament, the NGO that developed this initiative;
3. support the idea of moving the global referendum from an online vote to a formal procedure by means of a resolution in the UN General Assembly (a [draft resolution](#) for this has been prepared).

We now ask other NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and other networks of NGOs to consider identical or similar resolutions. And we remind everyone that a resolution like this one requires the organization to follow up on their commitments.

FUNDRAISING

Vote World Parliament (VWP) went deeply into debt before support started to come in, and we may need many millions of dollars to complete a global referendum. Bottom line? Donations are needed from those who are fortunate enough to be able to [donate](#) to the cause. And since it is mostly in aid of future generations that this effort is being made, I suggest that involved students do something to raise some money not only to pay for pamphlets and ballots used by their fellow students, but also to support the VWP main

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office. If, say, \$10 arrives at VWP head office in Canada from a citizen of India, we will send half of that money back to the organizing committee at CMS. Similarly, half of all monies received as donations by the CMS organizing committee should be sent to VWP in Canada. These procedures will change when and as there are additional Indian schools participating in VWP's School Referendum Program. It's not about making money either in Canada or in India or anywhere else. It's about getting the job done, collecting ballots until we have a global mandate that cannot be denied or disrespected.

COURAGE

There is no time for worrying about how many people will get annoyed at you or at us for doing what we're doing. There are many scientists warning us that there isn't much time left during which human intervention will do any good, and there are some governments and companies that still deny even the science of climate change. Try to defend this new global referendum initiative politely when challenged, but don't waste a lot of time trying to change anyone's mind. State your case, and get on with the work of collecting ballots. An 18-nation GlobeScan opinion poll done in 2004 suggests that a world referendum should pass with 75% or so in favour ("yes" votes outnumbered "no" votes by more than 3 to 1). Our voting results are in the 90% range so far, but the final tally will likely be a lot closer to 70% or 75%. Our job is to collect however many "yes" votes it will take for everyone, including national governments, to concede that the human race has spoken as one, for the first time ever, and to honour that historic proclamation. (To see more of the GlobeScan poll, go to Chapter 2 or Appendix #1 of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*.)

Good luck, and please remember the old saying: "The harder I work, the luckier I get."

* * *

Excerpt from the first formal review [Feb. 13, 2008] of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*:

This is a brave and visionary book ... [It] is full of hope and inspiration and will leave the reader with a clear objective and direction. *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* should be required reading in every school and by every politician. Jerry Tetalman, California president of Citizens for Global Solutions and co-author of *One World Democracy*

APPENDICES

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Draft United Nations Resolution
for a
Global Referendum
on a
Democratic World Parliament

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

EXPRESSING deep concern over the danger of nuclear war and the danger that WMD (weapons of mass destruction) may be used by non-national groups, either of which could imperil the existence of life on Earth,

MINDFUL of the profound problems (climate change, HIV/AIDS, etc.) that persist and worsen for lack of resources while more than one trillion (1,000 billion) dollars are spent on armaments every year,

BEARING IN MIND that all nations and all people need genuine security in the age of “overkill” weapons, and that real security is now possible only through the establishment of an effective and widely supported world authority,

AFFIRMING the interest of all individuals in expressing their preferences on a matter as fundamental as the survival of humankind, and indeed asserting a human right on the part of all adults to participate meaningfully in such a basic choice,

RESPECTING the principle of subsidiarity, whereby issues are handled by the lowest appropriate level of government, thus leaving national politics to national governments, local politics to municipal governments, and so on,

REALIZING that people of every background would be inclined to support the creation of a directly-elected world parliament that is authorized by the human race to adopt and enforce legislation on such supranational issues as security, justice, peace, and protection of the shared natural environment,

RECALLING that Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* provides that “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government [and that] this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which ... shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,”

KNOWING that because the will of the people is the basis of all political power and authority, a clear expression of that will in a mandate emerging from a successful global referendum must be given effect to by all national governments,

ACCEPTING that the principle above finds strong support in the *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty*, whose Preamble states that: “... all peoples have an inalienable right to ... the exercise of their sovereignty ... and that, by virtue of that right,

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they freely determine their political status,” which status may include “citizen of Earth” in addition to one’s nationality, province or city,

REALIZING that a substantial mandate from the people of all nations would provide an irresistible legal and political base of support for the eventual achievement of a world of cooperation, co-existence and civil governance,

DETERMINED to provide to all adult human beings the opportunity to formally express their views on this hopeful concept,

1. **RESOLVES** to seek the unanimous agreement of all Member States to a brief and simple expression of the goal of a Democratic World Parliament;
2. **DECIDES** to use this brief expression as the wording on the ballot in a Global Referendum on establishing a Democratic World Parliament;
3. **CALLS UPON** each Member Nation to voluntarily collect its “national component” of the Global Referendum before January 1, 2017;
4. **ENCOURAGES** each Member Nation to seek full and open debate of all sides of the issue prior to holding the vote among its national population;
5. **DETERMINES** that no one may cast a ballot before having attained the age of sixteen;
6. **RESOLVES** that the collection of each national component of the Global Referendum must be accompanied by United Nations supervision to ensure the fairness of the voting procedures; and
7. **DECIDES** to form a committee to study the proposal for a Global Referendum on a Democratic World Parliament, and report back to the next Session of the General Assembly.

* * * * *

Suggested ballot wording:

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

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Appendix #2 – Chain voting, or fast-tracking the global referendum

Can we collect a global mandate for the creation of a democratic world parliament in less than one year?

Certainly, if the first voter brings in 2 more “YES” voters in 1 week, and receives promises that those 2 people will do the same thing, and each brings in 2 other new “YES” voters the following week, etc. (See below.)

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION FOR CHAIN VOTING, OR FAST TRACKING

<u>Time</u> (after 1 st vote is cast)	<u>New</u> “YES” votes during this period	<u>Total</u> “YES” votes <u>so far</u>
Week #1	2	(first vote + new 2 =) 3
Week #2	4	(old 3 + new 4 =) 7
Week #3	8	(old 7 + new 8 =) 15
Week #4	16	31
Week #5	32	63
Week #6	64	127
Week #7	128	255
Week #8	256	511
Week #9	512	1,000 (approximately)
Week #10	1,000 (approximately)	2,000
Week #11	2,000	4,000
Week #12	4,000	8,000
Week #13	8,000	16,000
Week #14	16,000	32,000
Week #15	32,000	64,000
Week #16	64,000	128,000
Week #17	128,000	256,000
Week #18	256,000	512,000
Week #19	512,000	1 million (approximately)
Week #20	1 million (approximately)	2 million
Week #21	2 million	4 million
Week #22	4 million	8 million
Week #23	8 million	16 million
Week #24	16 million	32 million
Week #25	32 million	64 million
Week #26	64 million	128 million
Week #27	128 million	256 million
Week #28	256 million	512 million
Week #29	512 million	1 billion
Week #30	1 billion	2 billion <i>Enough to win, technically!</i>
Week #31	2 billion	3+ billion <i>A landslide win!</i>

Numbers do not lie. If you do your job and also make sure that your chain continues, and others do the same, we will accomplish our historic goal soon. This could work! (Well, it can work if the global mandate is out there, in the hearts and minds of most people, as we assume it is.)

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Appendix #3a — Cards; front (set your computer at [View/Print Layout](#) to see this page properly)
[Print page 24, then print page 25 on the back, cut out cards with scissors, carry some in your wallet and hand them out]

World Democracy **through a global referendum**

Is it time to create a directly-elected, democratic parliament for the world? Many people think it is.

Visit www.voteworldparliament.org to learn more ... and to cast your own vote.

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Student Referendums on World Democracy

Appendix #3b — Cards; back (set your computer at [View/Print Layout](#) to see this page properly)
[Print page 25 on the [back](#) of printed page 24, cut out cards with scissors, carry some in your wallet and hand them out]

If you wish to help out, your completed ballot and other ballots you may collect are to be handed in at (place) _____
no later than (time) _____
on (date) _____

If you want to help input ballot data, inquire when you hand in your completed ballot(s)

If you wish to help out, your completed ballot and other ballots you may collect are to be handed in at (place) _____
no later than (time) _____
on (date) _____

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no later than (time) _____
on (date) _____

If you want to help input ballot data, inquire when you hand in your completed ballot(s)

Student Referendums on World Democracy

Appendix #4a — Printable short ballots (4-up)

Separate 4 ballots with scissors, collect votes (minimum voter age 16), go to www.voteworldparliament.org and transfer data from one paper ballot to an active digital ballot, click “Submit Vote,” and continue on.

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Student Referendums on World Democracy

Appendix #4b — Printable long ballots

Printed ballot for the global referendum on a democratic world parliament

<p>Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
--

Only your **first name**, your **country**, the **date your vote was cast**, and **how you voted** will be posted on the Internet at <https://voteworldparliament.org/vote-now/public-record/>, but do we ask for the additional information to protect the integrity of the voting process. Please fill in the boxes below.

Given name (no nicknames please)	required
Family name (surname)	required
Street address	not required
City or town	not required
State or Province	not required
Postal or Zip Code	not required
Country	required
Date of Birth or Age (must be 16+ to vote)	required
Email address (yours or a contact)	not required

PLEASE NOTE: This printed ballot will be submitted to us by way of the Internet by one of our volunteers. Your vote will be assigned a number as its ID, and this ID will be posted on the Internet with your vote as soon as we have your vote. If you want to know this ID number to show to a family member later, for instance, or just for your records, ask our volunteer for it, and he or she will look it up and give it to you. (Since these ID numbers are assigned to ballots in the order that they are received, the ID number of your vote is also *approximately* the number of people who voted before you.)

If you want to send your filled-in ballot by mail, our address is Vote World Parliament, Box 1102, Shawville, QC, Canada, J0X 2Y0 — You can also vote online if you prefer. To vote online, go to www.voteworldparliament.org.



Vote World Parliament

— world democracy through a global referendum —

Rescue Plan for Planet Earth

Attention high school, college and university students:

The several generations of people before your generation have substantially wrecked the planet, partly out of ignorance and partly out of negligence. My name is Jim Stark and I am 69, so I was part of the problem. Apologizing to your generation isn't nearly enough, so I have written a book about this dilemma called *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*. This plan has been called practical and promising, and I hope that it works—for all our sakes. Here is the situation in brief, as I see it, as well as the required “fix.”

If garbage was collecting on the streets where you live and there was no running water or electricity because the municipal government had somehow been dissolved or disbanded, you would have to reinvent the city or town council to get these problems taken care of.

If all schools and hospitals open in your province were now closed because the provincial government had been scrapped, you would have to re-establish a provincial government to get those intolerable situations repaired and under control.

If foreigners were streaming across your country's borders, taking whatever they wanted of your country's resources and just shooting anyone who objected or resisted, and this was happening because somehow there had been a collapse of your national government, you would have to re-establish that government to regain control of your country.

It is ridiculous to seriously suggest that we would be better off *without* those three levels of government, and yet we have *global* problems that are literally threatening the survival of humanity (climate change and enough nuclear weapons to wipe out civilization *at least* ten times over), and there is no serious campaign to establish a government at the global level, or even a world parliament. Well, now there *is* a campaign that has a good chance at succeeding, and it is up to you and your friends and families to make it a reality before we pass the tipping point on global warming or fall into a suicidal World War III.

We know how to authorize a fully corruption-free and democratic world parliament (it isn't very difficult), and we think this can be done *in a decade*. Democracy is governance *with the consent of the governed*, so if we want a democratic world parliament (or DWP), we have to conduct a global referendum to see if the human race is ready to finally grow

Student Referendums on World Democracy

up and act like a united species, for the first time ever. Scientists have told us that there is little time left (a few decades) to prevent the most catastrophic aspects of climate change, so we have only one chance to get this right. Where do we start?

1. Hold a referendum based in your school, where you and others can vote (if you are 16 or older), and get your family members, neighbours and friends to vote too. You can vote online, or [print long ballots from here](#), or print short ballots from [here](#) (four per page, so less cost) or from Appendix #4. Keep them with you, thus to canvass your family, neighborhood or any group that you can contact. Then submit the completed votes through the online referendum on our site (www.voteworldparliament.org).
2. Go to www.voteworldparliament.org, and under the “You Can Help” link you will see how to start a [chain vote](#) that could *theoretically* see one person’s act collect the entire global mandate in less than one year!
3. Get your teachers to address the idea of a democratic world parliament (*for or against*).
4. Start a Vote World Parliament club or World Democracy club at your school and get at least two other schools to follow your example on all the points mentioned above (and this point too).

I will give the last word to my old friend, Ross Smyth (recently deceased at 86). **“I am dying. My dying wish is that you get off your butt and give this global referendum plan a chance to work.”**

Student Referendums on World Democracy

Appendix #6 — Article



Vote World Parliament, Box 1102, Shawville, QC Canada J0X 2Y0
www.voteworldparliament.org — voteworldparliament@webruler.com — 1-819-647-6113

We need a democratic world parliament

A short article by Jim Stark
Founder, Vote World Parliament

Humanity needs a democratic world parliament because we are smart enough to resolve our disputes through law rather than through the use of force, and because we are quite civilized enough to not even *want* to beat up a person or a country that we may disagree with. And by “we,” I mean the *overwhelming* majority of ordinary people everywhere.

There is no good reason why we can’t live as comfortably under *world* law as we do now under national, provincial (or “state,” in the USA) and municipal law, and just as the formation of the nation ended wars among provinces and cities, a democratic world parliament should end war between or among our nations. Even “terrorist” groups should be less inclined to even *want* to use force if there is a new (and totally transparent) global legal order where they can get a fair hearing for their alleged grievances.

While money isn’t everything, it is important, and it will cost much less to institute a global regime of “collective security” than to maintain an armed force for each of the 195 “sovereign” nations, just as it costs far less to have a local police force protecting all of us against all local threats than it would be for each family to arm itself to the teeth in case a neighbor from across the street might attack. The tax burden *for security* for your lifetime may well be cut in half by a democratic world parliament, and the actual security that can be delivered would be far greater through a democratic world parliament than it is in the current world of 195 national armies and 195 spy agencies.

As far back as the 1960s, it was realized that an all-out nuclear war could kill every person on the planet ... *and perhaps all life on Earth*. We need to permanently remove the threat of nuclear war—or any war using weapons of mass destruction (WMD)—from the list of possible futures, and that will require that we ban war altogether, criminalize it. Only a democratic world parliament has any realistic chance of doing all that.

There are other supranational issues besides war, the most dangerous of which is climate change (or global warming). It is now quite clear that climate change is a serious threat to our very existence. Al Gore has called this a “true planetary emergency.” If we expect a patchwork of national initiatives to solve this problem, we are simply dreaming.

We know how to use off-the-shelf technology to corruption-proof a parliament by making it *completely* transparent, so we won’t need to worry about the possibility of a “Hitler” gaining control of the democratic world parliament. If we are going to construct a democratic world parliament, common sense dictates that it must have full and verified integrity, using whatever technology it takes to accomplish this extremely high standard. It must be made *impossible* for military force to be used inappropriately or prematurely at the global level.

There are enormous injustices in the world, and history surely teaches us that there is no peace without justice, no justice without law, and no law without government—in this case, *world* law made by a democratic *world* parliament.

Student Referendums on World Democracy

More perhaps than anything else, business needs stability to operate, and of course war is the exact opposite of stability, even if a few industries profit temporarily from war. A future in which a company can operate smoothly and profitably for thousands of years is possible only if we construct a fair and democratic world order.

According to former American senator George Mitchell (the architect of the Mitchell Plan for peace in the Middle East): “We benefit enormously from technology ... but we also suffer from [its] consequences ... it is now easier, takes fewer people, less skill [and] fewer resources to kill large numbers of people than at any time in ... history.” (This was on *Newsnight*, CNN, May 9, 2002.) In the future, perhaps a twelve-year-old will be able to make purchases on the Internet and poison an entire city. To survive as a species, we must accept law as one of the necessities of life, and that must include *world law* (this is not the same as international law; international law applies mostly to governments, and world law would also apply to individuals, like the other three levels of law do).

No one today is so foolish as to suggest that we tear down all of our democratic municipal, provincial or national governments, even though they aren't perfect. In twenty or thirty years, if a democratic world parliament is in place and doing its work routinely, nobody will suggest that we might be better off without it. But before our eyes see that, we are a fearful, anxious lot.

We have in front of us the opportunity to become the “founders” of a world of law and justice that must exist if humanity is to survive and thrive in the years 2500 or 25,000 or 250,000 ... not to mention the year 2,500,000. This might be the greatest opportunity you will ever have, the chance to carve a path across this last major political frontier. The task of building a new and democratic world parliament is not that difficult, but it is huge—which means we should start immediately and work very hard.

If, say, 95% of all human adults voted in favor of the creation of a democratic world parliament, no person would dare to try to stop us from building what we had voted for. No political issue ever gets such high support, but there is a poll, done within 18 nations, that shows that a global referendum on constructing a democratic world parliament would pass strongly. The numbers were 63% “yes,” 20% “no,” and 17% said they weren't sure or gave no answer. So, let's collect the two billion or more “yes” votes that it will take to comprise a “compelling” mandate. Our legal research indicates that if for instance 50% of all human adults cast votes and 67% of all votes are entered into the “YES” column, such a mandate would be “legally binding” under international law (this *in addition* to being politically compelling).

If you are a democrat, then you know that democracy means governance *with the consent of the governed*. In other words, to get a democratic world parliament, we must first have a democratic world referendum. The ideal way would be for the UN to pass a resolution calling for such a global referendum, but since that will likely prove difficult to accomplish, we can start by using the Internet, and a ballot now awaits your participation at www.voteworldparliament.org. (A draft UN resolution is also ready for the moment when a few national governments decide that we really do need something *a great deal* better than the UN to resolve supranational conflicts and defend human rights forever into the future.

In addition to the global referendum, we need to come to grips with the obvious need for a constitution for the world. We would like Canada to host a “framing convention” of NGOs (“non-governmental organizations,” for the uninitiated), scholars, religions and governments to prepare a draft. We anticipate the need for an electoral commission to prepare for a first global general election, and to prepare for the presentation of a draft world constitution to the human race (likely through a second global referendum).

For the full picture, go to our web site (just above), and perhaps read my book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*. (It is now available as a **free download** on the front page of the VWP site.) One way or another, please come to grips with this potentially world-altering initiative. It deserves your support, and as David E. Christensen (the author of *Healing the World*) recently wrote to me, “This could work!” Yes indeed—it could work. And if we all do our parts, it will work.

QUOTES

I loved your book.... I think you have a brilliant idea that bypasses governments and puts the power in the hands of ordinary people. I was particularly impressed with the way you addressed the questions that arise in the mind of the reader. **Mary-Wynne Ashford**, MD, PhD, co-author (with Guy Dauncey) of *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*

There is no salvation for civilization, or even the human race, other than the creation of a world government. **Albert Einstein**

The idea of a global vote is a powerful one and Jim Stark needs to be commended for putting all the arguments together and presenting them with clarity, logic and passion.... I think the steady development of such a worldwide appeal has the potential to be one of the great forces leading the world in the direction of DWG [democratic world government]. From a review of *Rescue Plan* by **Lyndon Storey**, author of *Humanity or Sovereignty: A Political Roadmap for the 21st Century*

We need to promote the democratization of globalization before globalization destroys the foundations of national and international democracy. **Boutros Boutros-Ghali**, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I have high hopes that the Vote World Parliament project [the global referendum] will harness the awesome power of the Internet to initiate a serious dialogue on the possibility of establishing an effective federal world government. **James A. Yunker**, *Political Globalization: A New Vision of Federal World Government*

The common good of all nations involves problems which affect people all the world over: problems which can only be solved by a public authority ... whose writ covers the entire globe. We cannot therefore escape the conclusion that the moral order itself demands the establishment of some sort of world government. **Pope John XXIII** in *Pacem in Terris*

As scientists, we understand the dangers of nuclear weapons and their devastating effects, and we are learning how human activities and technologies are affecting climate systems in ways that may forever change life on Earth. As citizens of the world, we have a duty to alert the public to the unnecessary risks that we live with every day, and to the perils we foresee if governments and societies do not take action now to render nuclear weapons obsolete and to prevent further climate change. **Stephen Hawking**, author and cosmologist, in a news conference January 17, 2007, organized by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

The global referendum on democratic world government is a compelling mobilizing strategy to jumpstart a grassroots movement to usher in a just world order for the

human polity and gaia. **Saul Mendlovitz** (editor), *On the Creation of a Just World Order: Preferred Worlds for the 1990s*

The international community should support a system of laws to regularize international relations and maintain the peace in the same manner that law governs national order. **Pope John Paul II** said essentially the same thing, as follows:

Mark my words ... the only problem which deserves the devotion of contemporary man, the problem to which I myself am determined to devote the rest of my life, up to my very last day ... is, very simply, the survival of the species. It is a question of knowing whether mankind ... will disappear by its own hand, or whether it will continue to exist. **Albert Einstein** (circa 1947)

It is absolutely undeniable that ... some of [the UN's] most influential and powerful members do not buy, as applicable to them, the principles therein contained. In fact, they defend and apply the law of the jungle—might makes right.... The United Nations has not achieved the fundamental goals for which it was created.... If the United Nations is evaluated having those [goals] in mind, then ... it has failed.... I have come to the conclusion that the time has already passed for reforming or mending our organization [the UN]. What we need to do is reinvent it. **Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, the former president (2008-2009) of the General Assembly of the United Nations

I have worked all my life to get a democratic world government, but obviously we don't have one yet. Too many of us did too little to save the world. Now I am dying. My dying wish is that you get off your butt and give this global referendum plan a chance to work." The late **Ross Smyth**, a former national president, World Federalist Movement—Canada; Board Member of WWP; author, *One World or None*

The hope that a radical transformation will occur in world politics lies in the entry onstage ... of a new political subject, the only political subject that possesses democratic legitimacy: the citizen.... Empowering the citizen of the world means to build up at the global level those checks and balances that have nurtured the evolution of democracy. **Daniele Archibugi**, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens*

Leaders are indispensable, but to produce major social change many ordinary people must also be involved. **Anne Firor Scott** (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

This [global referendum] initiative is vital to the very future of humanity. People everywhere must understand the necessity of democratic world government for the survival and flourishing of life on the Earth. Vote World Government brings our one real option for a decent world order to the attention of humanity. God bless this movement. **Glen T. Martin**, author of *Ascent to Freedom: Practical and Philosophical Foundations of Democratic World Law*

The mandate from a successful global referendum on establishing a world parliament would be the first legitimate expression of the people's world sovereignty to make world law. World law will be at a higher level than what we know as international law, and what we are really doing with the global referendum is embryonic world law. **Francisco Plancarte**, President of the Mexican NGO Planetafilia and a member of the Inter-American Bar Association. (Washington D.C.)

Referendums are a substantial part of the transformation of a delegative democracy into a participative one. Using them at the global scale in order to democratize the international political order constitutes an extraordinary way of appealing for a world democracy through worldwide democratic tools. **Fernando Iglesias**, author of *Globalizar la Democracia: Por un Parlamento Mundial (Globalizing Democracy: Appeal for a World Parliament)*

The future depends on what we do in the present. **Mahatma Gandhi** (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

I would be proud and honoured to be a part of the group advocating a global referendum on democratic world government. Your proposal sounds practical, and I hope with all my will that it becomes a reality. **Kai Nielsen**, author of *Globalization and Justice*

Problems such as global warming and nuclear weapons make it clear that the global community needs a functioning democratic government. We need a global constitution, an elected global parliament that can make global laws, a global judicial system that can determine which individuals are guilty of breaking those laws and a global police force and prison system that can apprehend and punish those individual criminals rather than trying to punish whole nation-states. The global referendum gives individuals the opportunity to register their views on this important but generally-neglected issue. **Ronald J. Glossop**, author of *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity's Most Pressing Problem*

Rescue Plan for Planet Earth is a triumph. It belongs in a class with Thomas Paine's "Common Sense." **John Kintree**, St. Louis Public Library

Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors. **Jonas Salk**

If given a choice between what we have now—a hodgepodge of uncoordinated, contested, non-representative, under-resourced international organizations and institutions of "global governance"—and what we could have—a democratic world "government"—I am convinced that the vast majority of humanity would choose the latter. The problem has been that this choice has not been available ... until now. The global referendum on democratic world government offers a means for humanity to make such a choice. **James P. Muldoon Jr.**, *The Architecture of Global Governance: An Introduction to the Study of International Organizations*

If we cast our minds ahead into the future, and ponder our past history, it becomes totally obvious that a civilized planet like ours must have a democratic world government. Future generations will be surprised that it took us so long. **Guy Dauncey**, *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change*

We will, I believe, come together in a global community. The members of that enlightened community will recognize that we are made in the image of our environment; i.e., that we are divine and that we have to operate, not in a survival of the fittest manner, but in a way that supports everyone and everything on this planet. **Bruce Lipton**, *The Biology of Belief*

The continued reliance on purely national forms of democracy has become radically insufficient in a global age. It is no longer a question of whether democracy should define the contemporary world, but of which type of democracy we should wish and indeed hope to have. **Patrick Hayden**, *Cosmopolitan Global Politics*

The most important decisions have migrated away from institutions under citizens' control and towards international power centres free from any form of democratic supervision. Globalisation thus brings about the crisis of democracy. How long can democracy last in a world where citizens are excluded from participating in decisions which determine their destiny? Globalisation must be democratised before it destroys democracy. **Lucio Levi**, *Crisi dello Stato e governo del mondo (Crisis of the state and world government)*

History has given our generation an enormous responsibility and two daunting tasks: If civilization is to survive, we must not only stabilize global population, but also, even more importantly, we must eliminate the institution of war. **John Avery**, "Against the Institution of War" (article)

You are leading the way, brother. Somehow, some way, this species needs to embrace your leadership or, eventually, cockroaches will be running the whole gig. Bless you for your vision. **Jim Kanady**, author of *Capital Offenses* and *A Different Winter*

I am really impressed by the faith and courage of the VWG team. Most people are not very interested in problems of global governance, unfortunately ... [so] I'm not terribly optimistic ... but you never know, perhaps [the global referendum] might suddenly take off! **Christopher Hamer**, author of *A Global Parliament: Principles of World Federation*

Jim Stark's suggestion for a global referendum is a great idea to kick start a real democratic global government movement. I hope millions of people around the world join in! **David E. Christensen**, author of *Healing the World: A Primer About the World and How We Must Fix it for Our Children*

The global referendum on democratic world government is an excellent initiative. World government is urgently needed to help solve the global problems we can foresee, such as global warming and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Frank Barnaby, editor, *The Gaia Peace Atlas*

Global problems—from climate change to nuclear proliferation—need global solutions. Existing structures of international governance are failing to deliver in these and other key areas, such as the Millennium Development Goals. This suggests that a step change is needed to create effective, legitimate and democratic global governance. Such a development would need to be backed by decisive support in a worldwide referendum open to all global citizens. Oliver Tickell, author of *Kyoto2: How to Manage the Global Greenhouse*

All acts of creation begin with a single step. The creation of a global referendum is a necessary first step in creating the political will necessary to create a viable global government. Jerry Tetelman, author (with Byron Belitsos) of *One World Democracy: A Progressive Vision for Enforceable Global Law*

I hope my presidency will address what has become a universal clamor all over the world for the democratization of the United Nations. I promise to give full support to the working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly. H.E. Miguel D'Escoto, President of the General Assembly of the UN, June 2008

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without public sentiment nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes or decisions possible or impossible to be executed. Abe Lincoln, 1858

The question is not one of “surrendering” national sovereignty. The problem is not negative and does not involve giving something up we already have. The problem is positive—creating something we lack ... but ... imperatively need—the extension of law and order into another field of human association which heretofore has remained unregulated and in anarchy. Emery Reves, *The Anatomy of Peace*

Law is merely what enables us to live together in peace without having to love one another. Mark Van Doren, American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and critic

Your people will judge you on what you can build, not on what you can destroy. U.S. President Barack Obama, Inaugural Speech, 2009

The nations of the world have a stake in one another. Barack Obama, “A time for global action,” an Op-Ed piece, March 23, 2009

Law is merely what enables us to live together in peace without having to love one another. Mark Van Doren, American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and critic

The essential notion is the replacement of anarchy with the rule of law reaching to individuals. Joseph Preston Baratta, Ph.D., from an article entitled “The World Citizens Party: Ideas for the Future”

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew. Marshall McLuhan

It is no longer sacrilegious to consider that democracy can be applied even outside the state. Daniele Archibugi, in his new book, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy*

The United Nations is not living up to its expectations in curbing conflicts among nations and we need a new charter.... No country should possess veto power. H.E. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former president of India

... the present world situation ... makes it necessary to have a world constitution, a world parliament, and a world government.... Throughout her long history, India has always believed in the idea of humanity as a single family. Bairam Jakhar, then-Speaker of the Lok Sabha (the People’s House of India) in 1985

For the first time in human history, world government of some sort is now possible. Geoffrey Blainey, Australian historian

We face problems we hadn’t even imagined, and they’re cropping up all over. I think the ability of the nation-state to deal with them individually, the way we used to, is disappearing, because national borders are eroding.... This financial crisis ... has shown us that we have a global economic system, [but] we don’t have a global political system.... Almost all our institutions were built or refined during, or for, the Cold War. General Brent Scowcroft, co-author (with Zbigniew Brzezinski), *America and the World* with a.

Global governance is just a euphemism for global government.... [the] core of the international financial crisis is that we have global financial markets and no global rule of law. Jacques Attali, adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France

[E]ven as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime - two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century. U.S. President-elect Barack Obama in his victory speech, November 4, 2008.

I’d put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don’t have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that. Thomas Edison, almost 100 years ago!

We’re borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the future of human civilization. Every bit of that has to change. Former U.S. vice-president Al Gore to the Democratic National Convention where Barak Obama accepted the presidential nomination in Denver, Colorado (August 28, 2008)

Evidence of the new Congress and administration's national priorities was confirmed in President-elect Barack Obama's victory speech, who called on America to defend a "planet in peril" as one of the three great challenges of our time. **Sue Brown**, Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation Action Fund

In just 100 months' time, if we are lucky, and based on a quite conservative estimate, we could reach a tipping point for the beginnings of runaway climate change. **Andrew Simms**, policy director, New Economics Foundation

A candle has to burn itself in order to give light to others. You are that candle.... Jim, fire symbolizes also Holy Spirit. According to Greek mythology, fire was in possession of gods only. Prometheus stole it from god Zeus to give to humans when they lived in dark caves. This gift brought productivity also in the field of art and literature. You are bringing productivity in the field of peace with your new thoughts and fresh energy. Congratulations. **Dr. Stephen Gill**, Poet Laureate of Ansted University and the author of more than 20 books

Sadly, our political evolution is lagging far behind our ability to effectively address our most pressing problems. One of my favorite quotes comes from the genius of Buckminster Fuller: "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." Vote World Parliament is building that new model. **Ted Stalets**, futurist, VP of VWP and literary agent for Jim Stark's book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

At best, the UN is part of the bureaucratic system that has brought us the IMF and the World Trade Organization but has failed to do much about preventing mass murder or the violation of human rights even in Rwanda or Somalia, let alone in more organized and powerful states. I think we are as likely to grow a lily from an acorn as [we are] to grow a democratic world parliament from the UN. **Caspar Davis**, World Federalist Movement—Canada, Victoria Branch (In an article called "Two Views of a Democratic Global Parliament," he compares our global referendum initiative with the idea of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and concludes that: "Stark's idea sounds more radical and perhaps quixotic, but I think it may actually be more practical.")

Democracy is the best revenge. **Bilawal Bhutto Zardidi**, 19-year-old son of Benazir Bhutto, three days after his mother's assassination (it was one of her favourite sayings)

The sea ice in the Arctic is toast (meaning it will all be gone soon), but (action to combat climate change) may change whether or not we are toast too. **Andrew Weaver**, climate modeler, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Canada, in an article entitled "Arctic ice cover shrinks to new low after summer thaw" (When you say in North America that something "is toast," it means that it is destined to die or disappear in the near future.)

I'm reading your fabulous book [*Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*]. Best compendium of ... quotes I've ever read. You've put a great deal of thought into these issues and I salute you for the important groundbreaking work you are doing. You can quote me on that. Thank you so much for sending it to me. Arthur Kanegas, American filmmaker

**For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonders there would be,
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales...
Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.**

“Locksley Hall,” a poem by Alfred Tennyson, 1842

On March 21, 2007, former American vice-president Al Gore [now also a Nobel Laureate for his work on climate change and his role in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*] testified to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. “Nature is on the run,” he said. “Future generations will suffer ... and they will ask, ‘What in God’s name were they doing? Didn’t they see the evidence? Didn’t they hear the warnings?’”

Student Referendums on World Democracy

Appendix #8 — Additional activities for individuals

MORE INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Below are listed more than a dozen distinct ways that an individual such as yourself can get more people to vote and advance to cause of world democracy.

1 The vote count is the thing that will get the world where we need it to go. If you want to help us establish a democratic world parliament, become a “vote collector” for the global referendum. Set a personal goal as to how many ballots you will collect in the next week, go to Appendix #4 to print out the ballots you’ll need, and get going. (Later on, you—or someone you trust—must accurately input the data from these paper ballots.)

2 Bring others to your computer, show them the active ballot on democratic world parliament at <https://voteworldparliament.org/> and help them vote (if they need help). Remember, 4 out of 5 people on Earth don’t have a computer with Internet access, so if you have one, please share it.

3 Email everyone on your list of contacts and ask them do as you did, to email everyone on *their* lists of contacts to go to <https://voteworldparliament.org/> and vote.

4 Try the [fast track](#) approach (also called the “chain voting” approach).

5 Get a few friends to go with you to ask your students’ council to consider running the school-wide mini-referendum for your school or university. Click [here](#) for the How To Guide.

6 Conduct a referendum for a group that you are involved with (a club, sports team, church, mosque, temple, office, union, etc.). The “How To” guide mentioned in item #5 above could also apply to these other groups.)

7 Mail or hand out paper ballots (print them from Appendix 4) at random and ask people to either fill them in and give them back to you or alternatively to input their data through the active ballot at our site, www.voteworldparliament.org.

8 Print out some copies of the pamphlet (Appendix 5) and either post them (where posting is allowed) or give them to people to read.

9 Print out some VWP cards (10 per printed page), cut them out with scissors, and hand them out and/or post them—where posting is allowed. (Cards are Appendix 3).

10 Print out some copies of the short article (2 pages) and hand them out and/or post them—where posting is allowed. (Article can be printed from (Appendix 6).

11 Download a copy of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* (it’s free) and read it. If you can afford to buy hard copies—they’re actually free too as long as supplies last, but we have to charge \$8 (in Canadian funds) to cover postage and handling—you could donate them

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to school or public libraries in your area, or give them to friends or relatives as birthday presents. (See top of front page of the site. www.voteworldparliament.org)

12 Start a branch or chapter of Vote World Parliament in your area, with a few friends or family, and do some local events that can advance our mission. (NOTE: If you do local fundraising events to help do your programs, some (between 25% and 50%) of the money raised should be sent to Vote World Parliament headquarters through the [donate](#) link on the site. The office is in need of all the financial help we can get to carry on our work on the world stage.)

13 Collect endorsements from your municipal government, from national politicians, service clubs, churches, unions, sports figures, entertainers, worker units—anywhere you can get them—and tell people that their support will help, and will be posted on the Internet for all to see. The global referendum may be a minor event now, but *when* we succeed, those people or groups who supported our goal and our approach will be very happy that they did so, and proud of that decision.

14 Call newspaper, radio and TV reporters and ask them to do a story on this new approach to world peace. If you are not comfortable as the interviewee (the person who is being interviewed), reporters can use our [contact us form](#) to get hold of our founder Jim Stark or president Ted Stalets, and we will answer any questions they may have.